



Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauā.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter



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Wednesday, April 16, 2008

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Governor Togiola issues directive geared at fighting global warming

Governor Togiola Tulafono is making good on his promise to help preserve the environment and fight against global warming through a directive that requires departments and agencies to take steps in reducing the emission of green house gases.

The directive details commitments by ASG based on the Governor's Executive Order issued late last year and aimed at reducing green house gas emissions produced by the government. (The Executive Order was issued last year during the 18th Meeting of the US Coral Reef Task Force).

This includes a ban on the importation of older vehicles and detergents that contain high phosphorus levels. With regards to vehicle purchases, Togiola is requiring the American Samoa Government to purchase only model year 2008 vehicles that have a minimum combined USEPA fuel efficiency rating of 20 miles per gallon (mpg).

The Governor said the Central Procurement Office will be tasked with ensuring that ASG no longer purchases 4-wheel drive vehicles except in circumstances where a definite need can be shown.

According to the Governor's directive, effective January 1, 2009, the Customs Division "will enforce a ban on the importation of vehicles for private or government use," manufactured prior to model year 1999.

The Procurement Office shall ensure that ASG will add hybrid vehicles (passenger and light-duty trucks) to its fleet beginning with a hybrid purchase rate of 5% for model year 2008, and incrementally increasing at the rate of 5% per year to 50% by model year 2017.

The Attorney General's Office and the Division of Weights and Measures, as part of their duties shall, effective January 1, 2008, ensure that all fueling stations in the territory (private, commercial, and government), have installed auto shut-off and vapor recovery nozzles on all fuel pumps.

Effective October 1, 2007, the Customs Division of the ASG Treasury Department was directed to ban the importation of all detergents with phosphorus levels greater than 11%. And it doesn't stop there.

The Governor has directed the Procurement Office, in conjunction with the Territorial Energy Office, to ensure that all ASG departments, offices, and agencies begin immediate replacement of all incandescent light bulbs in ASG facilities with compact fluorescent bulbs.

The Office of Procurement is also responsible for ensuring that the purchase of all ASG appliances and electronics have an USEPA energy star approval.

Togiola's directive provides that department and agencies with jurisdiction shall designate a contact individual within the department/agency who will file a written report with the Governor's Office within 30 days of the directive. The report must outline the progress and any problems encountered in the implementation of the directive.

Governor Togiola continues to crusade against global warming and the protection of our coral reefs and says that American Samoa is committed to doing its share to address the adverse impacts of global warming and resulting climate change, and he challenges the federal government, the public sector, and regional jurisdictions to join the fight.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7 Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

DOC releases quarterly Consumer Price Index

The Statistics Division of the Department of Commerce has released the local Consumer Price Index (CPI) for this quarter, which reveals the addition of four new groups to the CPI starting with the first quarter of 2008 index.

The revised, more comprehensive CPI, which was funded by the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, now includes nine groups. They are: food, alcoholic beverages, apparel, house, medical care, transportation, recreation, education, and other goods and services.

According to DOC, the revision has taken almost three years to complete, and the new revised CPI now has a number of significant improvements, meaning that it will provide an even more comprehensive measure of price movements than ever before.

DOC reports that for the first quarter of 2008, the CPI registered at 101.3 index points, meaning that overall, the cost of goods and services normally purchased by the local community rose by 1.3% compared to the end of 2007.

Leading the quarterly increases were the prices for housing, food and other goods and services which rose from 1.9% and 1.8%, respectively, to 2.7%.

No decreases or changes in the prices for the other groups in the CPI were noted although, compared to the beginning of 2007, costs of goods and services increased to 7.7%, the annual rate of inflation.

When compared year-to-year, prices for transportation and housing led all increases, with the high cost of fuel being blamed for the increases in the transportation group.

The lay out for the new system was carried out by CPI expert Brian Hannon from Washington DC who was contracted for the job by the US Census Bureau.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On April 12, 1900, Tuimanu'a Elisara told Governor Benjamin F. Tilley (who was visiting Manu'a) that he would "join the new government." Governor Benjamin F. Tilley advised Tuimanu'a Elisara that he would be "under the authority of the United States", even if he did not come to the flag raising ceremonies on April 17th.

On April 13, 1973, the "Massacre Bay" Historic Site at A'asu, American Samoa, where 11 of French explorer Jean-François de La Pérouse's crew were killed on December 11, 1787, was entered on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

On April 15, 1914, American Samoa's ninth naval governor, Commander Clark Daniel Stearns, established a system of advisory boards and committees "to work closer with the Samoan people for mutual cooperation in the administration of the government." These committees, with Samoan members, were: "Committee A: Executive Committee, consisting of District Governors; Committee B: Committee of the Samoan Hospital, with three members from each district, and Committee C: Auditing Committee, to give fullest publicity to the statement of government accounts."

On April 15, 1942, mine laying operations in the approaches to Pago Pago Harbor ceased, after USS *Ontario*, USS *Kingfisher*, USS *Swan* and USS *Turkey* laid a total of 400 mines in six fields, which were in the following locations: "Field 'A': South of Cape Fagauso [Fogausa]; Field 'B': In vicinity of Taema Bank; Field 'C': West of Leone Point; Field 'D': South of Cape Taputapu; Field 'E': West of Southworth Point; Field 'F': Off Ofono Bay."

On April 16, 1997, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt dedicated the National Park of American Samoa (NPAS), in ceremonies held at Vatia. The ceremonies were attended by Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia, Lieutenant Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono and other cabinet members, and by Western Samoa's Head of State, His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II. The National Park Service was represented by Western Regional Director Stanley Albright, Pacific Ocean Area Director Bryan Harry, NPAS Superintendent Christopher Stein.

On April 17, 1900, the *Deed of Cession*, drafted by Secretary of Native Affairs Edwin W. Gurr, was signed by the following chiefs of Tutuila, American Samoa: "Mauga of Pagopago; Leiato of Fagaitua; Faumuina of Aunuu; Pere [sic] of Laulii; Masani of Vatia; Tupuola of Fagasa; Soliai of Nuuli; Mauga (2) of Pagopago; THE SUA AND THE VAIFANUA [Eastern District]; FOFO AND AITULAGI [Western District]; Tuitele of Leone; Faiivae of Leone; Letuli of Ilili; Fuimaono of Vailoa; Satele of Vailoa; Leoso of Leone; Olo of Leone; Namoa of Malaeloa [sic]; Malota of Malaeloa; Tunaitai [sic] of Pavaiai; Lulemana [sic] of Asu [sic], and Amituanai of Itauau."

On April 17, 1910, American Samoa's Fita Fita Barracks (now the headquarters of the Department of Public Safety) was dedicated at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

On April 17, 1917, the first *Codification of the Laws and Regulations of the Government of American Samoa* was completed, due primarily to the efforts of Judge Alexander Stronach.

On April 17, 1934, Captain Otto Carl Dowling relieved Lieutenant Commander Thomas Calloway Latimore and took office as American Samoa's 23rd naval governor (until January 15, 1936).

**HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY
AMERICAN SAMOA!**

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY FLAG
DAY HOLIDAY!!**

USCRTF meet to discuss challenges and develop foundation for renewed commitment

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) held a public meeting in Washington D.C. at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History on February 27, 2008 where the USCRTF celebrated the International Year of the Reef 2008, as well as the ten-year anniversary of the formation of the Task Force.

As the USCRTF marks ten years of collaborative research, management, and conservation of coral reef ecosystems, a focus of this meeting was to review the collective efforts and accomplishments, highlight remaining needs and challenges, and begin to develop a foundation for a renewed commitment to action.

Highlights of the meeting included the unveiling of the official International Year of the Reef 2008 painting "Year of the Reef," by renowned marine artist Wyland who is in the territory to paint a mural on the north side of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.

In addition, USCRTF jurisdictions shared their ten-year accomplishments and remaining needs, as well as challenges for effective coral reef management and conservation.

Three CRTF members who have been with the Task Force from its inception (Karen Koltes, Gerry Davis and Lelei Peau who is the current deputy director of the ASG Department of Commerce) shared their perspectives on where the CRTF has been, and where it is going.

Co-chair of the Task Force, Tim Keeney, reminded the Task Force that the actions taken should be based on science, the need to continue to invest in research, and the importance of a continued focus on coral reef ecosystem resiliency as much of the future will depend on the personal energy of the CRTF, its commitment, and reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act by Congress, which would give additional authorities to the Task Force and underscore its role as an international leader in coral reef management.

The president of Palau, H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., gave an inspiring speech and a challenge to action. He pointed to the reality facing coral reefs and said, "time is not running out – it already has, both for reefs and reducing green house gases," and there is a need to form strong partnerships at every level – local, national, regional and global – to achieve resilient reefs.

Keynote speaker Dr. Nancy Knowlton presented an assessment of coral reefs worldwide, and acknowledged that some colleagues are already writing off corals, thinking that they are beyond the point of saving. And while she does not adhere to this belief herself, she says that coral reefs are turning into algal-dominated ecosystems on a global scale.

She said it does not take too many people to create a threat to coral reefs, as even a few can have substantial effects through fishing and sewage.

Panelists Billy Causey (NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program), Noah Idechong (Republic of Palau House of Delegates) and Marea Hatzios (World Bank) were invited to share their vision for the future of coral reef management and conservation.

They identified climate change, land-based pollution, habitat degradation, and over fishing as the main threats to reefs. (While the last three can be dealt with directly, climate change requires global work and leadership).

The panelists agree that there is a need to get communities to understand what is happening and raise awareness to build strong support for political action. Even if people don't live near reefs, they need to have ownership of the issues, understand the human footprint on reefs, and understand that everybody's actions have an effect.

According to the panelists, several tools and approaches that the Task Force could consider include:

- 1) The principle of subsidiarity – working at the local level to affect change, and engaging stakeholders, as they're the resource users who can take the most immediate action;
- 2) An ecosystem approach – link upstream and downstream, maximize net benefits to society, and understand people's concerns;
- 3) Overcapacity in fishing – Simply put: too many boats, too much gear;
- 4) Offering people engaged in resource extraction an exit strategy through alternative livelihoods; and
- 5) Scaling up marine protected areas.

Governor Togiola Tulafono, who represented American Samoa, emphasized the need to continue to build capacity in the jurisdictions and strengthen inter-jurisdictional partnerships. American Samoa is improving energy use by a new commission put in place by Togiola for the Climate Change resolution that was passed. The Samoa Archipelago Initiative has been launched to hold annual meetings to investigate and collaborate on common environmental issues.

ASCC ITT Instructor Holds Training for Public Works

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer



ASCC ITT instructor Fred Suisala (right) confers with Motor Pool Manager Toeie'u Tauave during one of the trainings for automotive technicians currently underway at the Maintenance and Operations headquarters in Tafuna. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

Thanks to collaborations between ASG Public Works and the Institute of Trades and Technology (ITT) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), the automotive technicians of the government's Maintenance and Operation (M&O) facility in Tafuna are currently being trained in the most efficient use of diagnostic scan tools. These tools will soon be at their disposal as they service ASG vehicles. This computerized device plugs into the built-in computer found in most automobiles today, and allows mechanics to make quicker assessments of automobile problems, as opposed to the traditional method, which involved trial and error.

With the "Product Familiarization" training now in progress, ITT instructor, Fred Suisala is guiding the M&O automotive technicians through the bes-proven methods of utilizing the diagnostic scan tools that will soon become a regular part of their service procedure. "To try and provide a bridge between the old approach to servicing automobiles

and the contemporary approach, we will revisit the theory and fundamentals of basic computer controls in an engine before training on the diagnostic scan tools," explained Suisala. For the duration of the training which got underway this past Tuesday, about two dozen automotive technicians will attend classes with Suisala twice a week at the M&O headquarters in Tafuna through most of April.

According to Suisala, the idea for the training came from M&O General Manager Fred Godinet, who coordinated with ITT Dean Leusoga "Bill" Emmsley to formalize the arrangements. "The ITT seeks to work as a collaborative partner with the public and private sectors whenever it's feasible," said Leusoga. "We have experience with current technology such as diagnostic scan tools, and by sharing this knowledge with Public Works, this adds to their efficiency and helps improve things for everybody." Leusoga added that the ITT plans to hold many more trainings in the future in order to help improve the skills of the Territory's workforce. Areas currently under consideration for future ITT trainings include computer repair and electricity.

A member of the ITT faculty since last year, Suisala teaches a full load of courses at the College. "I will be teaching the new Automotive Technology curriculum that I developed earlier this year, which was approved by the Curriculum Committee last month," he said. "The new automotive curriculum has nine new courses to replace the four courses that ASCC has been using since the 1980s." Other new curriculums developed by Suisala for the ITT include a Diesel Technology Certificate of Proficiency and an Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Certificate of Proficiency, both of which are currently before the Curriculum Committee for their review and approval. "If these curriculums are approved, then I'll start offering these classes in the fall," said Suisala.

For someone who has worked his way to the position of college instructor in his field, Suisala nevertheless recalls his humble beginnings at the ASG Motor Pool, where he got his first job as a mechanic in 1977. He left American Samoa in 1986, and spent the next 16 years working as a Journeyman Auto Technician at various locations in California. In addition to holding senior technician certification from manufacturers KIA, Nissan, Mazda and Ford, Suisala earned his Certified ASE Master Automotive Technician qualifications from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence in Leesburg, Virginia. Along the way, to get some fun out of his vast experience with automobiles, Suisala also took up the hobby of motor racing, and achieved the designation of Certified Racecar Driver from the Bob Bondurant Racing School in Phoenix, Arizona.

"Although I hope to help the mechanics at M&O gain some speed at what they do," laughs Suisala, "I won't be teaching them about racing."

U.S. SEEKS TO RECOGNIZE PACIFIC RECRUITS

The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) recognizes that hundreds of sons and daughters of the U.S. Insular Areas currently serve in the War on Terror in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

According to estimates, the number of enlistees from the U.S. Insular Areas is much higher per capita compared to those from the U.S. mainland. The Office of Insular Affairs is proud to present the Military Highlights section of the OIA website.

We use this section of our website to raise awareness and showcase service as given by those from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states in the United States military.

Your participation is vital to the success of this awareness-raising initiative. OIA kindly asks that you complete the following questions and submit them electronically along with a picture to Tanya Joshua at Tanya_Joshua@ios.doi.gov or Ryan Edgar at Ryan_Edgar@ios.doi.gov at your earliest convenience.

Name:

Age:

Hometown:

Rank:

Assignment:

Post:

Enlisted or joined from (i.e. FSM, Guam, Hawaii):

Years in service (i.e. 1995 – present):

Why did you join the U.S. Armed Forces?

What is your greatest experience being in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Please include one picture.

You may wish to visit our Military Highlights page at:

http://www.doi.gov/oia/Firstpginfo/islanders_in_the_military/highlights.html

Gov. Togiola invites public to free Marine Forces Pacific Band concert, Wed., Apr. 16th, 7pm at “Ai o le Tai” – Wayland Whaling Wall, EOB lawn in Utulei



(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono extended an invitation to the general public to attend a Flag Day Week Concert with the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band this Wednesday from 7pm to 8pm at “Ai o le Tai” Wyland Mural at the Executive Office Building lawn in Utulei.

‘As we continue to celebrate and give thanks for the remarkable gift to the Territory from Wyland, it is truly fitting that we carry on that celebratory spirit into the commemoration of American Samoa’s 108th birthday this week with a pre-Flag Day concert performance by the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band from Honolulu, Hawai’i. We are very thankful for their participation and I wish to invite all music lovers of American Samoa to

come enjoy this free concert from these talented professional musicians and also enjoy the Wayland Whaling Wall – Ai o le Tai.”

The U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band have toured internationally and performed for millions throughout the Western Pacific, playing for audiences of all ages and fulfilling their duties as musical ambassadors for the Marine Corps. The Marine Forces Pacific Band took part in the Manu’a Centennial celebration in 2004 at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Tafuna.

Officially created in 1918, the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band operates from Kaneohe Bay, Hawai’i and is one of twelve “field bands” throughout the Marine Corps. Today, as in the past, the band is a versatile group composed of Marines with a wide range of musical talents.

The public is invited to the *free concert* this Wednesday, April 16th, 7pm – 8pm, at “Ai o le Tai - Wayland Whaling Wall, EOB lawn in Utulei.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Government of American Samoa Department of Commerce Project Notification and Review System (PNRS)

The Government of American Samoa, Project Notification and Review System (PNRS) will hold a Public Hearing on a management plan and a temporary moratorium for all development in the Tafuna Lowland rainforest until a management plan and program is established to guide future land use of this area. The Hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 23rd 2008, at the Convention Center in Utulei at 4:30 PM.

The PNRS invites and encourages all members of the public to attend and participate.

The temporary moratorium will restrict all development on the land while landowners and ASG Departments assess appropriate actions and guidance standards for use in the rainforest area to ensure the rainforest's functionality (both for ecological purposes and human needs). The temporary moratorium will be lifted at the completion of the management plan. All written comments regarding this issue must be submitted to the Department of Commerce by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008.

For more information, contact Apulu Veronika Mata'utia Mortenson, at 633-5155.

FA'AALIGA MO ILOILOGA FA'ALAU'ITELE:

KOMITI FA'AILOA MA ILOILO AI TALOSAGA O GALUEGA TAU ATINA'E (PNRS)

MATAGALUEGA O FEFA'ATAUAIGA MALO O AMERIKA SAMOA

O le a faia se **Iloiloga Fa'alau'itele** a le Komiti ua taua i luga i le Aso Lulu, 23 Aperila 2008, i le Convention Center Utulei i le 4:30 i le afiafi. O le mataupu o lenei iloiloga o le faamoemoe lea a le Malo o Amerika Samoa e fa'asao le Vaomatua i Ottoville, Tafuna. O lenei taumafaiga taua a le Malo o le a mafai ai ona faatulaga ma faatapula le faaogaina o le Vaomatua mo le taimi nei.

E valaau faaaloalo atu le Komiti o le PNRS i le mamalu o le atunuu ina ia auai i lea iloiloga taua.

Mo nisi faamatalaga, faafesootai Apulu Veronika Mata'utia Mortenson, i le telefoni 633-5155.